

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LAW AND JUSTICE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:485

ANSWERED ON:29.04.2005

FAST TRACK COURT

Satpathy Shri Tathagata; Surendran Shri Chengara

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether fast track courts functioning in the States to clear huge pendency of cases have achieved the objective for which they were set up;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of cases pending and disposed off by these courts till 31.12.2004;
- (d) whether 1690 fast track courts set up to clear huge pendency of cases are facing closure due to non-allocation of funds by 12th Finance Commission;
- (e) if so, the reasons for not allocating funds in this regard; and
- (f) the alternative arrangement made by the Government for quick disposal of pending cases?

Answer

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ)

(a) to (f): A statement is enclosed at Annexe.

Annexe

Statement to Lok Sabha Starred Question No.485 for answer on 29.4.2005

(a)&(b): As per information available with the Department of Justice, as on 31st March, 2005, 1711 Fast Track Courts have been notified out of which 1562 courts have been made functional. These courts have disposed of 7871 lakh cases out of 14.33 lakh cases assigned to them.

(c): As per information available with the Department of Justice, as on 31.12.2004, the Fast Track Courts had disposed of 6.07 lakh cases out of 12.58 lakh cases assigned to them.

(d)&(e): Department of Justice had requested the Twelfth Finance Commission for the continuation of the existing FTCs and also creation of another 1500 FTCs at the Magisterial Level. However, the Twelfth Finance Commission has not made any recommendations in this regard. The Supreme Court in its order dated 31st March, 2005, in the case of Brij Mohan Lal V s. Union of India, has extended the functioning of Fast Track Courts for a month, upto April, 2005.

(f): The Department of Justice had placed a proposal before the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) for the continuation of existing 1562 FTCs for a further period of five years. The CCEA, in its meeting held on 27.4.2005 has approved the proposal of the Department of Justice for a provision of Rs.509 crore for continuation of existing 1562 FTCs for a further period of five years i.e. upto 31.3.2010. The Government have been constantly reviewing the accumulation of arrears in courts. Besides increasing the Judge strength from time to time, various steps have been taken by the courts, viz., grouping of cases involving common questions of law, constitution of specialized benches and organizing Lok Adalats at regular intervals, etc. The Government has also encouraged alternative modes of disposal including mediation, negotiation and arbitration. Special tribunals like Central Administrative Tribunal, State Administrative Tribunals, Income Tax Appellate Tribunals, Family Courts, Labour Courts and Consumer Courts have been set up to expedite disposal of cases. Information Technology is being used in generation of cause lists, providing information to the litigants and Advocates, for speedy disposal of cases.